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SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 1529 }

## MAY HOURANI

JUNE 8, 1960.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2007]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 2007) for the relief of May Hourani, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

## PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to May Hourani. The bill provides for the payment of the required visa fee and provides that one number be deducted from the number of visas authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of section 15 of the act of September 11, 1957 (71 Stat. 643).

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 36-year-old native and citizen of Lebanon, who resided in Palestine for 11 years prior to entering the United States on October 26, 1954, at Boston, Mass., as a visitor. Her uncle, with whom she resided in Palestine, is now deceased. The beneficiary is an orphan and resides with her only relatives, a sister and brother-in-law, both of whom are U.S. citizens.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated October 17, 1958, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization with reference to H.R. 13849, which was a bill pending in the 85th Congress for the relief of the same alien, reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,  
Washington, D.C., October 17, 1958.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (H.R. 13849) for the relief of May Hourani, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary. This memorandum has been prepared from the Immigration and Naturalization Service files relating to the beneficiary by the Atlanta, Ga., office of this Service, which has custody of those files.

The bill would grant the beneficiary permanent residence in the United States as of the date of its enactment upon payment of the required visa fee. It would also direct that one number be deducted from the appropriate immigration quota.

The beneficiary is chargeable to the quota for Lebanon.

Sincerely,

J. M. SWING, *Commissioner.*

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND  
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE MAY HOURANI, BENE-  
FICIARY OF H.R. 13849

The beneficiary was born on December 27, 1923, at Jedeut, Merjayoun, Lebanon, and is a citizen of that country. She is an orphan. She received the equivalent of a high school education in Lebanon. The beneficiary resided for approximately 11 years in Palestine with an uncle who is now deceased. She has no relatives in Lebanon. The beneficiary is single and has never been employed. Since her arrival in the United States she has resided in Greenville, S.C., with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Debaghy. The beneficiary, who is a student at Furman University at Greenville, S.C., is entirely dependent upon them for support.

The beneficiary was admitted to the United States on October 26, 1954, at Boston, Mass., as a visitor. She subsequently applied for and was granted a change of status to that of a student. Extension of temporary stay to January 2, 1959, has been authorized. Although she has violated her status by manifesting an intention to remain in the United States permanently, deportation proceedings will not be instituted as long as she continues to maintain a full course of study at an approved institution of learning.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Debaghy are naturalized citizens of the United States. Mr. Debaghy is a retired grocer and receives \$66.40 per month in social security benefits. Mrs. Debaghy is employed as a clerk in a grocery store, for which she receives \$30 per week. Their assets consist of \$6,000 in U.S. savings bonds and a savings account from which they receive \$1,200 per year in interest. Mr. and Mrs. Debaghy have no children and they indicate that they will continue to provide for and support the beneficiary until such time as she is able to provide for herself.

Representative Robert T. Ashmore, the author of the bill, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and testified in support of his bill as follows:

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I wish to make a statement in behalf of Miss May Hourani for whom I have introduced H.R. 2007. This bill is for the relief of Miss Hourani who wishes to become a permanent resident of the United States.

Miss May Hourani was born in Merjayoun, Lebanon, December 27, 1929. Both of her parents died when she was a baby and she was reared by her uncle. Her uncle was a physician in Palestine. At the beginning of the Israeli-Arab war of 1948 her uncle's entire family, including Miss Hourani, was residing in Jerusalem. During the war, the portion of Jerusalem where Miss Hourani resided was invaded and captured. The doctor's family and Miss Hourani fled from Jerusalem, barely escaping with their lives. Her uncle's automobile was riddled with bullets. He was wounded and remained in a hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, where subsequently his leg was amputated. The uncle is now dead and Miss Hourani has no close relatives in Lebanon or Palestine. The family's home, as well as all other property except a few personal possessions, was left behind when they escaped from Jerusalem. Miss Hourani's only close living relative is a sister who lives in Greenville, S.C. This refugee has no home to which to return in Lebanon or Palestine.

On October 26, 1954, Miss Hourani entered the United States as a visitor at Boston, Mass. Later she applied for and was granted a change of status to that of a student. Extension of temporary stay has been authorized. Since entering this country, Miss Hourani has been residing with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Debaghy, 111 Asbury Avenue, Greenville, S.C. Sometime after coming to Greenville she enrolled as a student at Furman University where she is now continuing her studies. Furman University is a Baptist school located in Greenville, S.C.

Miss Hourani's sister and brother-in-law are naturalized citizens of this country. Her sister is employed as a clerk in a store and Mr. Debaghy is a retired merchant who receives monthly social security benefits. Mr. and Mrs. Debaghy also own U.S. savings bonds from which they receive an income of approximately \$1,200 annually. The sister and brother-in-law have no children of their own and are anxious to provide a permanent home for Miss Hourani, or until such time as she is able to earn her own livelihood.

One of Miss Hourani's teachers at Furman University has shown an abiding and continuing interest in her. In a letter addressed to the Honorable Robert T. Ashmore, Representative of the Fourth Congressional District of South Carolina, Miss Sara Lowrey, chairman of the department of speech at Furman University, says:

"I know that you have been interested in helping May Hourani to remain in the U.S.A. Is there anything I can do to assist? She is one of my most lovable students. As

you know she is a refugee from Palestine. She came to the U.S.A. for a visit with her sister, Mrs. Elias Debaghy.

"What can be done, Representative Ashmore, to secure permission for this worthy young woman to remain in the U.S.A.?"

This young woman has proven herself to be honorable, dependable, and trustworthy in every respect. Without doubt, she would make a good and loyal citizen of the United States of America.

Senator Strom Thurmond introduced a similar bill in the Senate for the relief of the same alien. Inasmuch as the instant bill is being reported favorably by the committee, the bill (S. 1586) will be indefinitely postponed.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H.R. 2007) should be enacted.

